

3.1 – External Relations

Appendix 1 – National Women’s Equality Alliance – May Newsletter

For the first time, Australia looks to have achieved gender parity in Federal Parliament. Some seats are still in doubt, but it's likely that we have elected 69 women to the House of Representatives, which means women make up 46% of the lower house. Women also make up more than half of the Senate!

In Anthony Albanese’s new Cabinet, women take up 55% of the positions – a record high. This number is well above the 43% of Albanese’s first cabinet that were women and the 33% of Morrison’s cabinet that were women.

In another historical political moment for Australia, Sussan Ley was elected as the first female leader of the Liberal Party this week. Ley has had a long career in Federal Politics, having been elected as the member for Farrer in 2001, and the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in 2022.

Given the Coalition’s defeat in the Federal Election, this seems like a clear case of the [glass cliff](#) in action – where a woman is appointed to a leadership position in an organisation facing crisis. This isn’t a statement on the woman’s capabilities or a predictor of her performance, but it does mean Ley will have to navigate risky terrain as she takes the reins of the Liberal Party.

But we know that gender parity and women’s representation in politics is only the first step. Then, the real work begins.

NWEA are looking forward to keeping the Government accountable for their promise to deliver a fairer and more equitable Australia for women. Over the coming months, they will work with our Policy & Advocacy Advisory Committee and our Economic Equality Working Group to develop actionable policies that recognise the value of care work, address the poverty and housing crises for women, improve access to quality and affordable healthcare and ensure women are able to take up leadership positions across the community as well as in parliament.

Gemma Killen Director NWEA –

Workplace Gender Equality Act Amendments

Amendments to the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 (the Act) were passed recently, requiring employers with 500 or more employees to select and achieve or make progress on [gender equality targets](#). The targets include measures to balance the gender composition of the workforce, reduce the gender pay gap, support flexible working arrangements and improve support for employees experiencing family and domestic violence. WGEA will support employers to set their targets over the next year, after which they will have three years to demonstrate progress.

Appointment of members to Policy and Advocacy Advisory Committee.

In April, NWEA finalised appointments to its inaugural [Policy and Advocacy Advisory Committee](#) under the guidance of our new chair, Micaela Driberg – the CEO of Gender Equity Victoria. Other members of the PAAC are:

- Dr Sarah Duffy – Western Sydney University
- Dr Briony Lipton – UNSW Canberra

- Dr Lubna Alam – ALO Enlightened Women
- Kit McMahon – Women in Adult and Vocational Education
- Amanda Nicholson – Small business owner and community advocate
- Megan Elias – Australian Women's Health Alliance
- Bianca Tini Brunozzi – Human rights lawyer and policy specialist
- Debbie Kilroy – Sisters Inside
- Beverly Baker – National Older Women's Network
- Terese Edwards – Single Mother Families Australia
- Ronnie Gurung – Business and Professional Women Australia
- Lara Freidin – Women's Legal Services Australia
- Mary Tresize-Brown – Australian Young Pregnant and Parenting Network
- Dr Myra Hamilton – Australian Centre for Gender Equality and Inclusion @ Work, University of Sydney

NWEA will begin recruiting for their Working Group on economic security in the coming month.